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## Technology Lessons 4 Teachers

# Newsletter

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## Feature Application

### Storybird

<http://storybird.com>

**Storybird** provides templates & artwork for creating original digital stories. They are short, art-inspired stories you can make, share, read, & print. Great & simple for students to use, even down through elementary.

To use Storybird you simply select either an art-inspired theme, works from Storybird artists, or by a challenge word. Then drag & drop the drawings you like into your story. Once you've selected drawings for your story, simply type in the text of your story. Anyone can create great-looking digital picture books, regardless of drawing skills or lack thereof.

You can browse through & read other stories, because everything is screened for school & age appropriate material. Once a Storybird is finished, the author selects the age group, so

finding a story for you students is a trouble-free process. Class accounts make it easy to engage your students with Storybird.

See an example at, <http://storybird.com/books/a-dream-vacation/>



KerPoof:  
[www.kerpoof.com/](http://www.kerpoof.com/)



**KerPoof** is an engaging site with tools to create storybooks, cards, pictures drawings, & multimedia movies. Use KerPoof for language arts, math, science, social studies, & more!

Lesson ideas for using KerPoof,

- Collaborate in creating a class picture or animation
- Create animated storyboards or timelines
- Creative writing tool
- Animated movies
- Journal writing
- Story writing
- Comics with speech bubbles
- Comprehension tool

Teacher Tools: [www.kerpoof.com/teach](http://www.kerpoof.com/teach). It's filled with lesson plans & classroom ideas.

Gaggle Ideas:  
<https://www.gaggle.net>



Collaboration is an important part of student learning, & services that provide online editing of documents, spreadsheets, & presentations are a great way to accomplish it. **Gaggle's Zoho Docs**, offers all of the functionality students need with collaboration, combined with the filtering that Gaggle has been known for.

You can start a new file, or edit one you already have in your **Digital Locker**, & it's compatible with *Microsoft* files like *Word*, *Excel*, or *PowerPoint*. Zoho also allows exporting a document as another filetype, like PDF.

Here are some other ways to use Gaggle in your classroom,

#### ZOHO DOCS/EMAIL

- Send different writing prompts to different groups of students
- Assignments can be turned in via e-mail

- Set up peer editing
- Use for Daily Oral Language
- Students can write a story together
- Problems can be collaboratively solved

#### BLOGS

- Use as a writing journal
- Use as a question & response

#### MESSAGE BOARDS

- Lead discussions among classes
- Posting gives students time to think about the material
- Students learn from each other's posts & are motivated to share
- Post assignments
- Take on a character & answer questions about that person in first person

## ACTIVINSPIRE: Layers

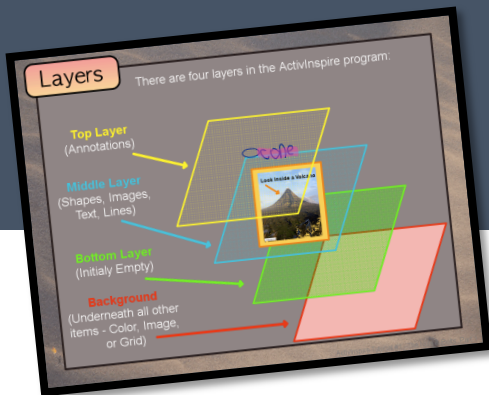
ActivInspire uses layers to achieve the effects that it does. Each time you add an object to the page, it puts it on top of the stack. There are 4 layers in the program.

The **Top Layer** is where all annotations are placed. **Annotations** are created using the **Pen, Highlighter, Pen Modifier, & Magic Ink**.

The **Middle Layer** is where all other objects are placed. This is where shapes, images, text, & lines are placed.

The **Bottom Layer** is initially empty. As you design, you may want to place object in this layer to be able to hide text or images.

The **Background** is underneath all other items. Anything can be placed in the background, but once it is in the background it is unmovable.



## Website 2 Check Out:

Dropbox:

[www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)

A web service that provides free online file storage. You can access your **Dropbox** from any computer & most mobile devices. You can also sync it across multiple computers, & share a drop with family & friends.

Using a service, **DROPitTome** ([www.dropitto.me](http://www.dropitto.me)), allows students to upload files to your Dropbox account without giving them access to the contents of your Dropbox.



## World Book Online

<http://worldbookonline.com>

**Username:**   
**Password:**

**World Book Online** includes an encyclopedia, dictionary, atlas, homework help, study aids, curriculum guides, reference resources, World Book Kids, World Book Student, World Book Advanced, World Book Discover, Living Green, Early Peoples, Inventions & Discoveries, Science Power, Dramatic Learning, & Early World of Learning. It is divided into different sites appropriate to students' ages. Take a look & enjoy!

